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# Château Calon Ségur 2016

CSPC# 813876

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Estèphe
<b>Classification</b>	Third classified Growth in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#menu-tome-ii-en">http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#menu-tome-ii-en</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>3rd classified growth in 1855. Calon, meaning little river skiff used in Middle Ages to ferry timber across the Gironde estuary, gave its name to the district which was at one point known as Calones or Saint-Estèphe-de-Calon. In early times, Château Calon-Ségur was one of the original three vineyards in Saint-Estèphe, and in 1825 Château Montrose (in 1855 classified as a Second Growth) was a forest-land parcel belonging to the Calon-Ségur estate. By marriage, the estate came to be owned by Nicolas-Alexandre, marquis de Ségur who also owned Chateau Latour and Chateau Lafite. Despite his ownership of these two First Growths, the Marquis said that his "heart was with Calon" and the wine's label today includes a drawing of a heart around the Chateau's name. Chateau Calon Segur had been in the hands of the Gasqueton family since 1894. The future of Calon-Ségur has been in question since the death of proprietor Denise Capbern-Gasqueton in September 2011 at the age of 87. Bordeaux third-growth Château Calon-Ségur has been sold to Suravenir, the life-insurance subsidiary of French banking group Credit Mutuel Arkea, for an estimated \$212.5 million. Videlot, a Bordeaux wine group owned by Jean-François Moueix, is a minority partner in the deal. The purchase agreement was signed June 29, 2012 and the buyers expect to finalize the sale in November 2012.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Laurent Duffau
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>2016 Bordeaux will be remembered for its schizophrenic weather conditions. John Nash would have felt right at home. This first half of the year set records for the amount of water in the vineyards. With its gravel and clay terroir, vineyards in the Saint Estèphe appellation were able to remove the excess moisture. Starting in June, Bordeaux came close to setting another record, for the extreme dry period that lasted until September 12. This is no problem for the soils in St Estèphe, because they were adept at holding ample moisture, allowing the grapes to fully ripen. You can read details about the harvest and growing season: <a href="#">2016 Bordeaux Harvest and Growing Season Report</a></p> <p>Capped by the warm, sunny days and cool nights, and stress at the just the right moment for the Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot, along with the late summer rains was perfect! The long growing season ended in mid-October for most of the estates. The growers might be all smiles now, but they were more than nervous at several points during the season.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	The vineyard has 74 acres in total, and it is surrounded partially by a stonewall and located in the northern town of St. Estèphe.
<b>Harvest</b>	Cropped at 42 hectoliters per hectare between 29 September and 15 October (finishing with the Cabernets and the Petit Verdot).
<b>Vinification</b>	Temperature-controlled conical stainless-steel tanks. Maceration for 18 to 21 days.
<b>Maturation</b>	The wines are fermented for 3 weeks in enamel-lined steel vats and are then matured in oak barriques (100% new) for 20 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The new regime at Calon-Ségur, under the careful guidance of Laurent Duffau, goes from strength to strength. This glorious 2016 highlights St Estèphe's success in this vintage. Deep purple in colour, with perfumed aromas of violets and dark summer fruits. A very harmonious style balancing intense Cabernet flavours with some luscious Merlot sweetness. Mouth filling with many layers, it is destined to give huge pleasure. It is little surprise that historical owner, the Marquis de Calon, said that, despite also owning Lafite and Latour, his heart always lay at Calon-Ségur.

<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Calon Segur is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Calon Segur is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	6,667 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2021-2045
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>98-99 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>96 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>16.5+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p><b>89-94 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p><b>18.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2017</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This sports a big, juicy core of delicious dark plum, blackberry and black cherry compote flavors streaked with violet, bay and tobacco notes that add energy. Loam and charcoal accents add the bass line on the finish, where the fruit really kicks into second gear. A no-brainer for the cellar. Best from 2025 through 2040."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This sports a dark fruit core, a mouthwatering iron edge and a long, tobacco-accented finish. The broad and racy feel gives this a distinctive profile. This should put on some weight. Score range: 94-97"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Calon-Ségur is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot aged in 100% new French oak for 20 months. Deep garnet-purple colored, it is a little closed to begin, slowly revealing warm red and black currants, kirsch and plum preserves with wafts of fragrant earth, violets, chocolate box and wood smoke. Medium to full-bodied, elegantly expressed and finely crafted, it has a wonderfully fine-grained texture and bold freshness supporting the densely packed black fruits, finishing long and mineral-laced."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Calon Segur is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Cabernet Franc, 20% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot cropped at 42 hectoliters per hectare between 29 September and 15 October (finishing with the Cabernets and the Petit Verdot). Notice that Cabernet Franc, which excelled not just here but around Saint Estèphe in this vintage, given that there was not a drop in the 2015. It has a very elegant bouquet, very pure with small macerated black cherries, blueberry, a hint of licorices and juniper berries, all effortlessly detailed and exuding what I term "controlled opulence." The palate is medium-bodied with a sense of symmetry on the entry, the acidity very well judged and the tannins far less rustic than the Calon-Ségur's of old. What I like about this Calon-Ségur is that it could not come from anywhere apart from Saint Estèphe: that structure, that obduracy counterbalanced by the opulence bestowed by the growing season. There is freshness locked in here from start to finish, with a subtle tang of seaweed and black pepper on the long aftertaste. For me this is a serious step up from the 2015, and the structure augurs a Calon-Ségur destined to last as long as those legendary wines from the 1920s and 1940s. Chapeau to winemaker Vincent Millet and estate director Laurent Duffau. This is easily the best Calon-Ségur that I have tasted from barrel."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *“Superb aromas of crushed berries, violets and sandalwood with hints of cedar and roses. Full body, very fine tannins and savory, delicious fruit. Vibrant acidity combines beautifully with the fruit and structure. Harmonious and attractive. Fine-toned. Try after 2024.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Wow. This is the Calon we have been waiting for! Intensity and power. Chewy and polished tannins. Full body, great depth. It goes on for minutes. Shows a classic, historical character that really excites me. The essence of this estate and St.-Estèphe. Best ever?”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Fine perfumes from the 18% Cabernet Franc in the blend are balanced by the firm, dark tannins of the Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine has weight and richness as well as a bold, dark structure. It is going to take its time and this powerful wine will not be ready before 2025.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “This wine is dense, packed with fruit and firm tannins. It is a great success, with a strong black-currant character of ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. There is also a perfumed edge from the Cabernet Franc in the blend. This is a wine with enormous potential. (RV)”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Rich, deep, glowing purplish crimson. Pungent and really interesting and layered on the nose already. Creamy texture and massive energy. Lots of tannin but all beautifully balanced. This is seriously intriguing rather than just ticking boxes. Glows on the end. Old-vine influence – really gives layers and intrigue. Sweetness of tannin. But the freshness really lifts it.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “An extremely complete and well-balanced vintage for Calon Ségur that shows how, with the right levels of acidity, tannin and depth of fruit, even 100% new oak can melt away. This is one of the signs of a great vintage and we have it here in spades. Great definition on the darkly spiced palate, with powerful cassis, liquorice, mint and violets that are dense yet feathery, with chalky tannins that need time to bed in. I love that the tannins are extremely high (80IPT) but not upfront, helped by a pH of 3.6. Just 35% of production made it into the grand vin because so much replanting was done back in 2006, although this should ramp up as the vines mature - they believe the potential is for 70% grand vin. The blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Heart-stoppingly good in every way. Rich, dense, powerful, concentrated, polished, long and complex, the fruits just keep on coming in the non-stop finish. Seamless from start to finish, there is beautiful purity of exotic spicy fruit that leaves a real impression. This will take 15-20 years to show its best, but if you are young enough, it's going to be worth the way. Clearly, this is the best wine ever produced from Calon Segur.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Incredibly dense with a beautiful sensation of forbidden fruit in the nose and on the mouth. There is weight, balance, freshness and complexity, imparting perfectly ripe, dark red, pit fruits and minerality is what this beauty does best. The wine was produced from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, reaching 14% alcohol with a pH of 3.75. The harvest took place from September 20 to October 25.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Maybe it’s taken a vintage or two for the new installations to bed in at Calon, because this is a superb expression of the estate that’s as good as anything, I’ve tasted from Vincent Millet. The high percentage of Cabernet Franc gives the wine remarkable lift and perfume, adding top notes to the structured, savoury, dark-fruited core. 2024-36”*  
- TA, timatkin.com

## Reviews

*"This classic Chateau has one of the greatest terroirs of Bordeaux. Quality in the past has been good but a little variable. However, en primeur prices were always reasonable - especially so in comparison to those of traditional rivals and neighbours Cos d'Estournel and Montrose. The property has recently been sold to a French insurance company - Suravenir. Manager Laurent Dufau has over-seen much modernisation of the wine-making facilities. Blackcurrant, incense and mint give a perfumed, complex, classic nose to the 2016. Generous and rich on the palate with cassis and sweet plum, the tannins are plentiful but refined. Firm, yet round, this is a marked improvement on the 2015 with lingering, spicy, precise purity on the finish."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The nose is firm the start of the palate tight but there is mid richness sweeter richer black fruits. The tannins are surrounded by rich black fruits firm but integrated and the finish has fair depth of flavour concentration yet freshness. 2027-45"*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2016 Calon Ségur was matured entirely in new oak for 20 months and bottled at the end of July 2018. This was one of the most impressive wines from the estate when I tasted it from barrel. Now in bottle, it has a gorgeous bouquet of beautifully defined blackberry, bilberry, dark chocolate and graphite aromas. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, perhaps suppler than Cos d'Estournel and more velvety in terms of texture. A dash of cracked black pepper and allspice appears toward the finish, which fans out gloriously. A brilliant wine from François Millet and his team. Drink 2023-2055."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2016 Calon Ségur is dense and radiant on the palate, just as it was from barrel. Even with all of its intensity, the 2016 is distinguished by its sense of freshness, lift and nuance, much of which comes from the 18% Cabernet Franc in the blend. Sweet floral, spice and minty notes add aromatic intensity to a core of sweet red cherry and plum fruit. There is plenty of underlying structure, but the tannins are sweet, silky and perfectly ripe. In short, the 2016 Calon Ségur is a wine of pure and total sensuality. Technical Director Vincent Millet and his team did a tremendous job with the 2016. Tasted three times. Drink 2024-2056."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2016 Calon Ségur is dense, powerful and radiant. Even so, it possesses striking aromatic intensity. Much of that no doubt comes from the Cabernet Franc. Sweet red cherry, plum, spice, mint and rose petal build into the silky, textured finish. In 2016, Calon Ségur is all class. There is quite a bit of tannin (more than 2014 and 2015) but the tannins are totally woven into the wine's fabric. The 2016 is not an explosive or obvious Calon, but rather a wine of exquisite beauty and pure class. Don't miss it! As of today, the best Saint-Estèphe wine of the vintage."*

- AG, Vinous

*"A monumental wine in the making, the 2016 Château Calon-Ségur is blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot that spent a full 20 months in all new French oak. It offers an incredibly powerful, concentrated, classic style in its crème de cassis, graphite, scorched earth, tobacco, and lead pencil aromas and flavors. These give way to an inky, full-bodied 2016 that has perfectly integrated acidity and tannins, subtle background oak, thrilling depth and purity of fruit, and a great, great finish. My money is on it being the greatest wine ever made at this address. Although it shines even today on its purity and balance, it needs 5-7 years of bottle age to hit prime time and will keep for three to four decades. 2024 - 2064."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"There is stunning balance and even a little exoticism here. This is a rich, full, bold Calon with momentum, freshness and lift. Stunningly forward with cassis fruit leading the way this is a lovely, clean, robust and structured wine which will age perfectly. Winemaker Vincent Millet explained that this vintage stands alone as a marker for the future because the weather conditions resemble nothing from the past. I believe that it is a truly great Calon"*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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